

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The Tamarack Foundation is proud to present Emerge, an exhibition featuring the artwork of eighteen students and recent graduates from college and university art programs across the state of West Virginia.

Emerge will be on view at the Robert C. Byrd United States Courthouse through February 29, 2016. The exhibition features paintings, photographs, drawings, sculptures and more.

Tamarack Foundation Executive Director Alissa Novoselick says, "Emerging talent is one of our great assets in this state. West Virginia colleges and universities are doing the work of developing outstanding artists. It's an essential part of our mission to take that work to the next level by assisting in developing exceptional - and sustainable - creative businesses around the work of those artists."

The foundation is currently developing a set of professional development opportunities created for students in WV college and university programs including funding, business skills training, networking with peers and a platform to sell work at the largest art market in the state, Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia.

More information may be found at www.tamarackfoundation.org.

Exhibition Dates and Hours

On View: December 2, 2015 - February 29, 2016

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5:30 pm

Participating Artists

Kylene Babski
Concord University

Courtney Leah Chidester
West Virginia Wesleyan College

Courtney Childers
Marshall University

Tiera Joy Floyd
West Virginia University

Kylie Ford
Fairmont State University

Marissa Gain
West Virginia Wesleyan College

Heather Gibson
West Virginia State University

Caliph Greene
Shepherd University

Joshua Hawkins
Shepherd University

Lavana Lemley
FullSail University

Mandy Lester
Concord University

Erin McKown
Fairmont State University

Christopher Schultz
Fairmont State University

Niesha Shafer
West Virginia State University

Kimberly L. Sexton
Concord University

Sterling Snyder
Concord University

Nicole Suptic
Concord University

Hannah Watters
West Virginia State University

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kylene Babski

Drawing, painting, illustration and graphic design

Concord University

Kylene Babski is currently a student at Concord University in Athens, WV, finishing up her Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and Advertising/Graphic Design. Prior to returning to finish her degree, she worked as a freelance artist and designer from her home studio in Lindside, WV. While the last few years have been spent focused on mixed media drawings, Kylene enjoys working with a variety of techniques and mediums. She anticipates returning to freelance work after graduation.

Courtney Leah Chidester

Painting

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Raised in a small town in West Virginia, Courtney Chidester developed a love for nature and a need to recreate familiar faces early on. Her work reflects the life that exists around her.

Courtney is now attending West Virginia Wesleyan College and completing a degree in Art and a minor in Business. She has been published in the Vandalia multiple times and has displayed her work in many group exhibitions including the Strawberry Festival Juried Art Show, Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club Photography Contest and the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library Art Exhibition.

Courtney Childers

Ceramics

Marshall University

Courtney Childers is currently a senior at Marshall University with expectation of graduating in the Spring of 2016. She has been studying ceramics for about three years since having her first class at Marshall. Her current work is an exploration of architecture and self through building slab constructions with cone 6 porcelain.

Tiera Joy Floyd

Painting

West Virginia University

Tiera Floyd is an artist and designer from West Virginia. Tiera discovered her hidden talent of painting six years ago, and decided to pursue fine art after earning her Bachelors degree in Graphic Design from WV Wesleyan College. For the next three years, she is pursuing a Master's Degree in Painting from West Virginia University. Tiera captures the personalities of her family and friends through tightly cropped portraits of facial features and hands with oil paint on wood panel surfaces.

Tiera is an alum of the Vermont Studio Center and a juried artist for Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia. She won the People's Choice Award at Tamarack's 2015 "Best of West Virginia Juried Exhibition" and received accolades at the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's 2011 and 2013 WV Juried Exhibition. Her work has been published in Creative Quarterly, Art & Design Journal numerous times.

Kylie Ford

Sculpture and printmaking

Fairmont State University

Kylie Ford is currently an undergraduate Studio Art and Art Education student at Fairmont State University with a projected graduation date of May 2016. In addition to her coursework at FSU, Ford is also an alumna of the Chautauqua School of Art 2014 summer intensive residency. During her undergraduate studies, she has exhibited work in West Virginia, New York, Maryland, and Tennessee. With her work, she is interested in exploring the ideas of patterns and structures using influences from daily living.

Marissa Gain

Painting

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Marissa Gain graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in May of 2015. While there she majored in Painting and Drawing and minored in Education. Marissa is currently working as a freelance artist in West Virginia. Although primarily

an oil painter, her work ranges from to large gestural portraits to children's book illustrations.

Heather Gibson
Printmaking
West Virginia State University

Heather Gibson is a printmaking artist currently living in West Virginia. Throughout her years in college, she has tried and experimented with various mediums of art. Although her focus is printmaking, she also enjoys working with painting and ceramics. Her current work centers on the relationship that humans have with nature.

Caliph Greene
Painting
Shepherd University

If there is a single aspect of Caliph Greene's elaborate art making process that stands out the most, it would be his love for dramatically vibrant watercolor. Simply influenced by nature and organic growth, he explores expressive techniques while illustrating focused images of the occasional plant life, birds, or skeletons. Chaotic spontaneity and chance is key in creating his emotionally driven work. Caliph is currently attending Shepherd University while pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in drawing and painting.

Joshua S. Hawkins
Painting and drawing, mixed media
Shepherd University

Joshua Hawkins is a mixed media artist from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and is a Graduate of Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV. His interest in the arts started during his teenage years when he rode for several independent companies. As a sponsored skater, to pass the time during team trips, he would sketch his friends in the car or would create collages based upon their trips. As the result of the suicide of a close high school friend, at 19, Hawkins purchased his first camera and began documenting the dialogue between his friends and himself within visual journals with translates into his work. He currently works as a freelance artist and run his own small run t-shirt company.

Lavana Lemley
Sculpture and painting
FullSail University

Lavana Lemley graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Computer Animation from Full Sail University in 2012. Her works showcase the decay and rebirth of nature by combining papier-mâché sculptures of strange animals with dried roots and vines.

Mandy Lester
Ceramic Sculpture
Concord University

Mandy Lester attended Concord University where she studied ceramic sculpture under West Virginia artist Jamey Biggs. Her work has been displayed in many galleries across the state. She is currently working on making a home studio while working as the Gallery Assistant at the David L. Dickirson Fine Arts Gallery located inside Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia.

Erin McKown
Drawing
Fairmont State University

Erin McKown, a recent graduate of Fairmont State University, is an emerging wildlife artist with a specialty in realistic, colored pencil works. Born and raised in the hills of West Virginia, Erin established a deep fascination with nature and art at a young age. Over the years, her appreciation of these two subjects grew more intense as she spent much of her time developing her artistic talent and making frequent trips to the woods. Her work is characterized by vibrant colors and an emphasis on detail.

Erin's work has been accepted into numerous juried exhibitions across the state. Her most notable awards and honors include: receiving "1st Place" (2013) and "Best of Show" (2014) at the Randolph County Community Art Center's annual juried shows, being voted "People's Choice" at the 2014 "Best of West Virginia Juried Exhibition" in Tamarack, and having her piece, titled 'Deer at Dusk', published in the November 2014 issue of Ann Kullburg's Colored Pencil Magazine.

Christopher Schultz
Painting
Fairmont State University

Christopher Schultz graduated from Fairmont State University and is currently living in the state of West Virginia. He works primarily as a painter, most often combining spray paint and oils. He sets brutal abstraction against areas of highly technical work.

Kimberly L. Sexton
Graphite pencil and photography
Concord University

Kimberly Sexton attended Concord University and received a bachelors in art education K-12 in 2014. Kimberly is currently an elementary art teacher in Fayette county where she instills her passion in the next generation. Her most desirable mediums of art are graphite pencil and photography. Kimberly has a passion for finding the perfect perspective of a classic vehicle and bringing the image to life through her artwork.

Niesha Shafer
Photography
West Virginia State University

Niesha Shafer was born in Summersville, WV and is currently obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from West Virginia State University. Niesha has always looked at the world differently and finds beauty in what others may consider to be unattractive or obsolete. This view and curiosity led her to pursue photography, where she spends most of her time investigating and photographing the weathered ruins of structures and objects that have been left behind and forgotten.

Niesha will be graduating in May of 2016 and plans to use her knowledge and experience to teach art and photography in West Virginia.

Sterling Snyder
Photography
Concord University

Sterling Snyder was born in Kingwood, West Virginia. He attended Concord University from 2009-2014 majoring in Graphic Design and Studio Art. Now, Sterling is an Adjunct Professor at Concord University. He splits his time between

West Virginia and Tennessee working in the outdoor tourism industry.

Nicole Suptic
Painting and drawing
Concord University

Nicole Suptic is an artist that specializes in portrait artworks and creations. As a young child, she was an avid and creative individual. At the young age of thirteen, she decided to create a drawing of a face for the first time. Many hours and sketchbooks were filled by her practice sketches, and Nicole was determined to improve her skills. As a 15-year-old, she started her own business for her artwork and began her journey selling her portraits. Throughout the years, her love for drawing and the arts remained the same. She attended college at Concord University and obtained her Bachelor's Degree with a focus in Fine Art. During college, Nicole started using acrylics on canvas and built up a large collection of drawings and paintings. Her most recent endeavor has been creating portraits in restaurant settings featuring her friends which showcase their unique expressions and personality. Having dedicated her life to developing her creative endeavors, Nicole intends on continuing down this path to grow as both an artist and an individual.

Hannah Watters
Painting
West Virginia State University

Hannah Watters resides in Charleston, WV and received her Bachelor of Art with a concentration in Painting from West Virginia State University. She is an environmental artist concerned with controversial issues within her home state. The work she creates is an exploration of textures and surfaces that address these timely issues, which affect us all.